

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-59 are pending.

Claims 1-33 and 44-59 are allowed.

Claims 34-43 have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art.

Claims 34-43 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

For clarity, claims 34-43 have been amended. They now refer to 1) a "steering apparatus", corresponding to the "stick" of line 132 of Fig. 7 but which may be a joystick, steering wheel or other steering device operated by the watercraft operator (see page 16, line 20 through page 17, line 4); 2) a "steering command" from the steering apparatus based on the position of the steering apparatus (corresponding to the "stick position command" of line 134 of Fig. 7); and 3) a "nozzle position command" as seen in line 134 of Fig. 7, which controls the actual position of the thrust nozzle(s). Thus, as disclosed in Fig. 7 and the related text of the specification, under certain circumstances, the "nozzle position command" can be the same as the "steering command" from the operator controlled "steering apparatus" (see step 134), or under other circumstances, can be different from the "steering command" from the operator controlled "steering apparatus" to control roll out of the watercraft (see step 140).

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Dependent claim 40 has also been amended to correct an error in the steps, and thus, to better correspond to the method of Fig. 7.

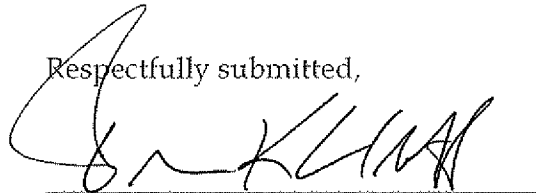
No new matter has been entered with these amendments.

With these amendments, claims 34-43 are believed to be clear and definite.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the § 112 rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice is respectfully requested. If anything else is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, it is kindly requested that the undersigned be contacted.

Respectfully submitted,




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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by EFS-Web on February 17, 2010


Deanna Rodman